

In the Drawings

Please amend each of Figs. 1, 2A-2B, 4A-4B and 7A-7C, and add new Fig. 5D, as indicated in the attached letter to the Official Draftsman.

Amend claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for cutting a window covering to a specified length comprising:

a base having a [top] substantially flat cutting surface;

a frame overlying said [top] cutting surface and mounted to said base, said frame and said [top] cutting surface defining a receiving area therebetween for receiving [said] a window covering;

a cutting assembly slidably mounted to said frame for sliding along a movement axis toward and away from said receiving area, said movement axis [being diagonal to said top] having a first component of movement extending in a direction substantially parallel to said cutting surface and a second component of movement extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to said cutting surface of said base;

a cutting blade connected to said cutting assembly, said cutting blade including a cutting edge facing said receiving area; and

a driver connected and in engagement with said cutting assembly, wherein operation of said driver imparts sliding motion to said cutting assembly to move said cutting blade [diagonally through] along the movement axis toward and away from said receiving area.

2. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cutting blade [cuts said window covering to said

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specified length when moving through] includes a cutting edge facing said receiving area.

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4. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said one or more guide tracks [are angled with respect to said top surface of said base] extend in directions substantially parallel to the movement axis.

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6. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said cutting assembly includes a rack having a plurality of teeth and said pinion includes a plurality of teeth at [the periphery thereof] a peripheral surface of said pinion, said pinion being matingly engaged with said rack so that rotation of said pinion imparts motion to said cutting assembly.

Cancel claims 9 and 10.

Amend Claims 11, 13-20, 27-28 and 30-33 as follows:

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11. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim ³⁸~~12~~, wherein said [top] cutting surface of said base [having] has a first end and a second end adjacent said cutting blade.

Claim 12, line 3, change "top surface" to -cutting surface--.

13. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said backup [includes] is made of nylon.

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14. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said backup includes a bar extending across said second end of said [top] cutting surface.

15. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, said base including a guide rail at said [top] cutting surface of said base extending from said first end to said second end of said [top] cutting surface, said guide rail adapted for guiding movement of [said] a window covering across said [top] cutting surface [and aligning said window covering with said cutting blade].

16. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said guide rail has a longitudinal axis extending between said first and second ends of said [top] cutting surface, said guide rail being [which is] substantially parallel to [a longitudinal axis of said head rail and a longitudinal axis of said bottom rail] said cutting surface.

17. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein a portion of said guide rail at said second end of said [top] cutting surface is adjacent said movement axis [so that] of said cutting blade [passes closely by said guide rail at said second end of said top surface while said cutting blade moves through said receiving area].

18. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, said guide rail including a mandrel adapted for engaging [at least one of said] a head rail [and said] or a bottom rail of a window covering.

19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, said headrail including an opening at the top thereof, said mandrel being slidable within said opening.

20. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said base includes a clamping assembly attached thereto for securing [said window shade] a window covering over said [top] cutting surface of said base.

21. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [1] ³⁸ ~~24~~, wherein said cutting blade includes a first face which is substantially flat and a second face including said pocket.

22. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [24] ³⁸ ~~24~~, wherein said pocket includes a tapered region extending from said cutting edge, said tapered region having a thickness which increases as the distance from said cutting edge increases.

23. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [28] ³⁸ ~~24~~, wherein said tapered region includes a second tapered